

Information Letter & Assent Form

Title of Study: The where of learning and teaching: an ethnographic survey of practices from the field

Who is conducting the study?

Dr. Hartley Banack
School of Education
University of Northern British Columbia
Prince George, BC V2N 4Z9
hart.banack@unbc.ca
250-960-5317

Who is sponsoring the study?

The study is being funded by a UNBC SSHRC GRF seed grant

What is the purpose of the study?

We want to learn more about where learning is happening (classrooms, school ground, gym, online, etc.).

You are invited to join in this research study because you have important ideas to share about where teaching and learning occur, based on your experiences as a student.

This study asks where teaching and learning are happening in your school. In this project, where means where learning takes place, for example: the classroom, the gym, the schoolyard, online, and so on. We want to hear stories from kids about where their learning is happening. This study tries to uncover how understanding where learning is happening can help with learning, health, connections to the natural world, and life experience.

You do not have to participate in this study if you do not want to. If you start answering questions and then decide you do not want to anymore, you can stop at any time. You can also choose which questions to answer. You do not have to answer them all. You can also say, at any time, that you do not want any of your answers to be part of the study. Nothing bad will happen if you decide to stop participating.

What will happen during the study?

We will find teachers and parents and kids, just like you, through local schools using posters and announcements. If you want to find out more, you can attend an information session, which will be offered both online and at your school.

Kids who have permission from their parents/guardians to participate in this study will be asked to complete a form (called an Assent form) saying that they want to participate. You will do this before starting the survey. You can read this letter and the Assent form with your parent/guardian, if some parts are confusing.

If you agree to join, kids will do an online survey (10-15 minutes) from anywhere you can connect to the web. Kids can also go to an in-person or online meeting (one and a half hours- 1.5), called a Focus Group, to talk about their experiences about where learning occurs with other people. The Focus Group will not be anonymous (as you will see who else attends), but information will be anonymous, and everyone will be

asked not to talk about the meeting with others. If kids decide to attend the Focus Group online, they will be a part of the larger group discussions or chats and put into smaller groups for some parts.

Kids who have gotten parent/guardian consent, and give their assent, will be asked to do the following:

- 1) online survey (10-15 minutes, one time) - *required*
- 2) participate, in-person or online, in a Focus Group (1.5 hours, one time; Focus Group will be audio recorded)- *optional*

You may choose to participate in one or both of the above options.

There will be food and drink if you attend the Focus group in-person, but no food or drink for kids attending online. We will try to have a variety of food choices.

You may decide to stop participating in this study at any time and your information will be removed. Nothing bad will happen to you if you choose to stop participating.

Data will be collected from December 2022-December 2023. All information will be kept secret and private, and we will try our best to keep the Focus Group private too. Focus Group participants will be asked not to talk about what happened in the Focus Group or about people you met in the Focus group, but we cannot promise that everyone will.

If you attend the Focus Group online, a member of the research team will help you to participate with the activities.

Is there any way that participating in this study could harm you?)

We do not think there is anything in this study that could harm you. Some of the questions we ask may make you feel embarrassed or upset. Remember, you do not have to answer any question if you do not want to. Let us know if you get embarrassed, upset, or if you have questions.

If you feel uncomfortable or upset and wish to stop, please tell the researcher immediately and you will be able to stop at once.

Your privacy is important to us. Everything we collect will be kept private and safe, and we will only share information that has no identifying features, such as name and age. If you decide you want to stop participating in the study at any point, let us know and you can stop. Nothing bad will happen to you and your information will be deleted.

Will being in this study help you in any way? What are the benefits of participating?

This study will help us to better understand how you learn. The results may help us understand how learning may improve your own health and wellness. Health and wellness benefits may include physical (i.e., movement, improved eyesight), mental (i.e., reduced anxiety, better focus, improved concentration, etc.), socio-emotional (i.e., better friendships with friends and teachers, better teamwork skills, etc.) and better teaching (i.e., better memory, better focus, stronger connections and friendships through learning, etc.). Learners may develop healthy relationships with First Peoples and land, and with both humans and more-than-humans (birds, rocks, trees, etc.), through listening to Elders, Indigenous teachers, and the voices of distinct places (i.e., forest, river, wind, etc.). In the future, teachers may use this information to help them plan their classes or develop lessons around where learning is happening.

How will your privacy be maintained?

What you share with us will be private. Things like your name, age, and other things about you will not be shared without your permission. The information we write down, called data, will be secret. We will give you

a code number and a "fake" name so no one knows it is you. Data will be kept in a locked filing cabinet or on a computer with a password in a locked office. We will never use your name in data. For the online survey, your data will only be kept in Canada using the safe online UNBC survey builder. In the Focus Group, we ask participants not to talk about what was shared or who attended, but we cannot control what other people say or do. We will use the artificial intelligence tool called Otter.ai to transcribe interviews. While Otter.ai's servers are in the U.S.A., uploaded interview audio files will contain no personal information. Participants will be referred to by an assigned numeric code. The audio files will only be held in the Otter.ai server for a limited time (length of the audio recording plus approximately 15 minutes) and then be permanently deleted.

The data gathered from this study will be kept for 5 years. It will then be destroyed [e.g., by shredding paper files, deleting digital files, etc.].

Will you be paid for your time/ taking part in this research study?

You will not get paid to participate in this study, but if you choose to go to the Focus Group meeting, you will be invited to enjoy some food and drinks (about \$10.00/person).

Study Results

What we find out from the study will be shared in two ways: 1) university paper and presentation - these will contain a lot of big words including other people's ideas and how this project connects and what we might do differently in the future, and 2) teacher's report – this will have a summary of all our findings, with pictures to help show our findings, and an invitation for other teachers to get involved in the future. What we discover will be shared into education magazines and presented at education conferences. What we discover will also be shared with your school, and other teachers from around British Columbia. You can even ask us to present findings to your class, if you want. We will ask you to tell us in the online survey if you want to hear about what we discovered.

Questions, Concerns or Complaints about the project

If you have any questions about what we are asking of you, please contact the Principal Investigator, Dr. Hartley Banack, at: hart.banack@unbc.ca or 250-960-5317.

If you have any concerns or complaints about your rights as a research participant and/or your experiences while participating in this study, contact the UNBC Office of Research at 250-960-6735 or by e-mail at reb@unbc.ca.

Participant Assent and Stopping

Taking part in this study is entirely up to you. You have the right to stop participating in this study. If you decide to take part, you may choose to stop participating the study at any time without giving a reason and without anything bad happening to you.

Clicking "I assent" below means that you got a copy of this assent form for you to keep and that you want to join the research project. Remember, you can always change your decision later and stop, and that is fine and nothing bad will happen.

ASSENT *(please click ONE response below for each statement)*

I have read, or been told by an adult about, the information shared in this information letter about the study:

YES

NO

I have been asked if I have any questions about this study. If I had questions, they were answered:

YES NO

I understand that if I say yes to participating in this study, I can change my mind and say no at any time and nothing bad will happen to me:

YES NO

I have been given a copy of this Assent form:

YES NO

I agree to be audio recorded:

YES NO

For parent/guardian: I consent/I do not consent to my child's participation in the study (click one):

I consent I do not consent

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Name of Child: _____

Date: _____



Information Letter & Community Consent Form

October, 2022

November, 2022

Title of Study: The where of learning and teaching: an ethnographic survey of practices from the field

Who is conducting the study?

Dr. Hartley Banack
School of Education
University of Northern British Columbia
Prince George, BC V2N 4Z9
hart.banack@unbc.ca
250-960-5317

Who is sponsoring the study?

The study is being funded by a UNBC SSHRC SSHRC GRF seed grant

What is the purpose of the study?

We want to learn more about where learning is happening (classrooms, school ground, gym, online, etc.).

You are being invited to take part in this research study because you have important knowledge and experience to share around the topic of *where* teaching and learning occur, based on your experiences as **a community member connected to your local school, or as a non-teacher working at a participating school.**

This study examines *where* teaching and learning occur by following teaching and learning in the K-12 school system, and choices around *where* learning experiences are situated. In this project, *where* means where learning is occurring, for example: the classroom, the gym, the schoolyard, the computer lab, etc. We are interested in hearing your stories of how you perceive *where* aspects of the learning you have observed or participated in. The project aims to shed light on how distinct *where* choices may impact learning, health and wellness, connections to the natural world, and life experience.

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary, and you are in no way obligated to participate in this research. You are free to withdraw from this study at any time. You are also free not to answer any questions that make you feel uncomfortable.

What will happen during the study?

Community participants will be recruited through School District #91 and the participating Burn Lake Schools via announcements and an in-person/online information meeting.

Community participants who consent to participate in the research will be asked to:

- 1) complete an online survey (10-15 minutes, one-time)- *required*
- 2) partake in a Focus Group (1.5 hours) (in-person or online, one-time)- *optional*

You may choose to participate in one or both of the above options.

For in-person participants in the Focus Group, snacks and a drink will be provided. If you attend the Focus Group online, no food or drink will be provided. You may decide to withdraw from the study at any point and your data will be removed. There are no consequences for withdrawing.

Data will be collected between December 2022-December 2023. Due to the nature of focus groups, anonymity will not be maintained. Focus Group participants will be asked to not talk about the Focus Group or who attended.

If you decide to attend the Focus Group online, you will be chaperoned by a member of the research team to participate in the in-person activities.

Is there any way that participating in this study could harm you?

We do not think there is anything in this study that could harm you. Some of the questions we ask may seem sensitive or personal and might upset you. Remember, you do not have to answer any question if you do not want to and let us know if you have any concerns.

If, at any point in the study, you feel uncomfortable or upset and wish to end a session or your participation, please notify the researcher immediately and your wishes will be respected.

Due to the nature of the Focus Group, we are unable to assure anonymity, however we are requesting of everyone who participates that they respect the privacy of others and the project, and not communicate about their participation. With this measure, we are still unable to ensure anonymity.

Your privacy in the project is important to us and we shall keep all data confidential and only share out data in anonymous or summarized formats. Again, at any point, you may withdraw from the study, without consequence, and your data will be removed.

Will being in this study help you in any way? What are the benefits of participating?

Taking part in this study may influence you around how teaching and learning experiences are organized and successful. Participation in this project may support health and wellness for learners, teachers and learning experiences by clarifying decisions around where learning occurs. Health and wellness benefits may include: physical (i.e., increased movement, moderate to vigorous movement, improved eyesight, etc.), mental (i.e., reduced anxiety, increased focus, improved concentration, etc.), socio-emotional (i.e., improved connections with peers and teachers, increased empathy, greater group cohesion, etc.), and pedagogical (i.e., improved memory/retention, greater learning focus, stronger connections through experiential learning, etc.). Learning may become more practical as a result of the study. Learning may develop healthy relationships with First Peoples and land, including relationships with more-than-humans, through listening to the *where* considerations of Elders, Indigenous educators and the voices of distinct places (i.e. forest, river, wind, etc.). In the future, others may benefit from what we learn in this study towards planning of teaching and learning experiences that include the *where* aspect of learning.

How will your privacy be maintained?

Your anonymity will be respected. Information that discloses your identity will not be released without your consent. All data documents will be identified only by code number and through pseudonyms. Data will be kept in a locked filing cabinet or a password protected computer in a locked office. Participants will not be identified by name in any reports of the completed study. For the online survey, we will utilize the in-house UNBC Survey Tool that stores its data only in Canada. For focus groups, we encourage participants not to discuss the content of the focus group to people outside the group; however, we cannot control what participants do with the information discussed. **We will use the artificial intelligence tool called Otter.ai to transcribe interviews. While Otter.ai's servers are in the U.S.A., uploaded interview audio files will contain no personal information. Participants will be referred to by an assigned numeric code. The audio files will only be held in the Otter.ai server for a limited time (length of the audio recording plus approximately 15 minutes) and then be permanently deleted.**

The information gathered from this study will be kept for 5 years. It will then be securely destroyed [e.g. by shredding paper files, deleting digital files, etc.].

Will you be paid for your time/ taking part in this research study?

We will not pay you for the time you take to be in this study. However, those participating in-person at the Focus Group will be invited to enjoy some food and drink (approximately \$10.00/person).

Study Results

Research study findings will be summarized in two formats: 1) scholarly/technical paper/presentation- this format will include theoretical frameworks, connections to prior research, and future research considerations, and 2) practitioner's report- this format will include summary of findings in relation to curriculum and pedagogy, connections/implications of findings to practice, graphics and images to illustrate findings, and an invitation to get involved in the future. Scholarly research study findings will be published in peer-reviewed academic journals and presented at academic conferences. Practitioner report findings will be shared with participating School Districts as well as teacher conferences around British Columbia (i.e. WestCAST Conference- UBC, BCTEN (BC Teacher Educator Network Conference- virtual, annual BC Provincial Professional Development Day- virtual and in-person across BC). The research team will also extend an invitation to present findings at your school or in your School District. You will be invited to indicate your interest for us to share the findings with you from the online survey.

Questions, Concerns or Complaints about the project

If you have any questions about what we are asking of you, please contact the Principal Investigator, Dr. Hartley Banack, at: hart.banack@unbc.ca or 250-960-5317.

If you have any concerns or complaints about your rights as a research participant and/or your experiences while participating in this study, contact the UNBC Office of Research at 2509606735 or by e-mail at reb@unbc.ca.

Participant Consent and Withdrawal

Taking part in this study is entirely up to you. You have the right to refuse to participate in this study. If you decide to take part, you may choose to pull out of the study at any time without giving a reason and without any negative impact on you or your standing in the School District community.

By clicking "I consent" below, you indicate your signature and that you have received a copy of this consent form for your own records.

CONSENT *(please circle ONE response below for each statement)*

I have read or been described the information presented in the information letter about the project:

YES NO

I have had the opportunity to ask questions about my involvement in this project and to receive additional details I requested:

YES NO

I understand that if I agree to participate in this project, I may withdraw from the project at any time up until the report completion, with no consequences of any kind:

YES NO

I have been given a copy of this form:

YES NO

I agree to be audio recorded:

YES NO

I consent/I do not consent to my child's participation in the study (click one below):

I consent I do not consent

First and last names of child: _____